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KODA & ANDROLIA

NO. 992 P. 1

OFFICIAL

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

SEIJI IWASHITA et al.

Serial No: 10/447,175

Filed: May 28, 2003

For: AN ELECTRIC SHAVER

Art Unit: 3724

Examiner: Flores Sanchez, Omar

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AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 18, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electric shaver comprising a cutter head ~~which is installed pivotally provided~~ on an upper portion of a shaver main body ~~in a pivotable fashion so as to pivot~~ in a forward-rearward direction on said shaver main body and which is provided therein with a plurality of cutter units, each of said cutter units having an outer cutter and an inner cutter that reciprocates while making sliding contact with an inside surface of said outer cutter, wherein

said shaver is provided with a plurality of oscillating members that convert a rotational driving, which is supplied from a driving source inside said shaver main body via joint portions connected in a plurality of locations in a direction of a height of said shaver main body, into a reciprocating driving oriented in mutually opposite directions and transmit said reciprocating driving oriented in mutually opposite directions to said cutter units; and wherein

said plurality of oscillating members are connected to a plurality of eccentric pins which are installed ~~[[in]]~~ upright at positions ~~where~~ whose phases are substantially opposite and said plurality of eccentric pins are provided above and below at least one or more eccentric of said joint portions.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The electric shaver according to Claim 1, wherein head supporting shafts of said cutter head that is installed on said upper portion of said shaver main body in a pivotable fashion are provided in a height range between an uppermost connection part and a lowermost connection part where said oscillating members and eccentric pins are respectively connected above and below said eccentric joint portions.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The electric shaver according to Claim 2, wherein said head supporting shafts are provided in substantially a central portion between said uppermost connection part and said lowermost connection part where said oscillating members and eccentric pins are respectively connected above and below said eccentric joint portions.

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1-3. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Accordingly, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Otsuka et al., stating that Otsuka et al. discloses all of the claimed invention including a cutter head 2, a shaver main portion 1, a plurality of cutting units 5, an inner cutter 70, an outer cutter 58, a driving source 90, a plurality of eccentric pins 92-93, eccentric joint portions and connection parts 81.

Applicant has carefully reviewed Otsuka et al. and respectfully submits that Otsuka et al. does not disclose a significant number of the elements of Applicant's claims. In particular, Applicant's invention requires that the cutter head be pivotally provided on an upper portion of the shaver body so as to pivot in a forward and rearward direction. Clearly, the shaver head in Otsuka et al. does not pivot at all.

Next, while Otsuka et al. may have eccentric pins, Applicant respectfully submits that the eccentric pins are not provided above and below the joint portions, as is required by Applicant's invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the construction of Otsuka et al. does not allow one to provide the advantage of Applicant's invention which is to provide an electric shaver in which the distance over which the driving force is transmitted to a plurality of cutter units in a cutter head that is pivotally disposed on a shaver main body is minimized so as to improve the driving efficiency and reduce the cutter head size.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Otsuka et al. does not show each and every element of Applicant's invention as claimed by claims 1-3 and claims 1-3 are not anticipated thereby.

Applicant further respectfully and retroactively requests a one month extension of time so as to respond to the Office Action. Please charge Deposit Account No. 11-1445 in the sum of \$110.00 as the fee.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.